

All at the ready . . . all out in front
ever steady while on the hunt, for our
freedom to so insure . . .

But, in life . . . There are new battles, and
new wars . . . Only won by heart's of
gold so fine and pure, that which so
touch us all with their sacrifice all the
more . . . Building day by day, passing
heartache's way . . . lifting up her
head . . . This Magnificent Force . . .

In Susan Downes . . . In what was lost, we so
see in life . . . against all odds, what so
can be found! When Courage Crests, as
her faith does us so bless . . . when but
the best of all heart's so astounds . . .

Could we, would we? Ever find the such
strength to go off to war, then come
back home and fight one more? To re-
build where none lies left, without
arms or legs . . . not to cry or beg, to
so touch our Lord!

Some people, are put upon this earth . . . So
sent down from our Lord above, to but
teach us all above faith's true fine
worth! To Teach Us To Reach Us, To
So Touch All Our Hearts . . . inside all
of our souls here first!

Against all odds! When, all the chips are
down . . . only where heart's of faith so
found . . . In such courage now, do our
hearts astound . . . all in Heroes like
Sue Downes! In Hearts As Found!

Susan Downes was a gunner in Afghan-
istan. She is an F4 in The United States Army.
She lost both her feet and part of her legs in
an IED explosion. She is from Tazewell, Ten-
nessee, is married to her husband Gabriel,
and they have two wonderful children named
Austin and Alexis.

TRIBUTE TO LTG JOHN R. WOOD

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has
come to my attention that LTG John R. Wood
is retiring from the U.S. Army.

Lieutenant General Wood graduated from
the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in
1972. He has served in many posts, including
as the platoon leader to the commanding gen-
eral of the 2nd Infantry Division of the 8th U.S.
Army—Republic of South Korea, as a National
Security Fellow to the White House, and as a
commander at the U.S. Joint Forces Com-
mand's Joint Experimentation Directorate.

Lieutenant General Wood has overseen the
Joint Forces Command's missions on training,
experimentation and integration for the U.S.
military. Lieutenant General Wood is a highly
decorated commander, earning the Bronze
Star, Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service
Medal, and many others. The General also
holds advanced degrees from the University of
Chicago and the U.S. Army Command and
General Staff College.

Madam Speaker, LTG John R. Wood is a
valuable member of his community, but more-
over, an honorable soldier. His dedication to
the Armed Forces should certainly be noted. I
know the Members of the House will join me
in thanking Lieutenant General Wood for his
service in the U.S. military, and in wishing him
and his family nothing but the best in the
many years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 7063, THE U.S. AND THE WORLD EDU- CATION ACT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my col-
leagues to support H.R. 7063, the U.S. and
the World Education Act, which I introduced in
the House this week.

This bill addresses the need to improve stu-
dent awareness of and achievement in inter-
national education so they will be able to com-
pete in an information age world that is con-
stantly shrinking due to rapid technological ad-
vances.

This bill will create a grant program to fund
international education professional develop-
ment for elementary and secondary teachers,
and related supplemental extracurricular activi-
ties for students. These activities could include
Model U.N., geography bees, and foreign lan-
guage clubs, among many others.

In addition, H.R. 7063 would establish an
international education research repository
containing scientifically valid education re-
search, and promising and exemplary prac-
tices related to international education and for-
eign language education. This repository
would be available to state and local educa-
tional agencies in order to continually im-
prove their international education curriculum
and teaching methods.

This bill supports improvements in the way
international education is taught in the class-
room, and encourages students and teachers
to engage in life-long learning on the various
topics involved in international education, such
as foreign languages, geography, world his-
tory, international economics and international
culture.

These days with just a simple computer
mouse click, we can create personal or pro-
fessional relationships with anyone around the
world. In the workplace, American-based mul-
tational corporations and small businesses
are increasingly in need of employees with
knowledge of foreign languages and cultures.

Future generations need to be equipped
with a skill-set that will help them be success-
ful and meet the demands of a global work-
force. H.R. 7063, the U.S. and the World Edu-
cation Act will help prepare our students and
our country for the global economy of the fu-
ture.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN R. BLACKBURN, JR.

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise
today in honor of John R. Blackburn, Jr.,
Chairman of the UPMC Bedford Memorial
Board of Directors. Mr. Blackburn will be re-
tiring after 53 years of service to the UPMC
Bedford Memorial Hospital. During his tenure
John, or Jack, as he prefers to be known, has
served in multiple leadership roles and has
been active in a variety of committees includ-

ing the Finance Committee and the Scholar-
ship Committee. Jack helped form the Memo-
rial Hospital of Bedford County Foundation,
worked on the Spring House Estates project,
and was a key player during the transition of
the hospital to the University of Pittsburgh
Medical Center.

Mr. Blackburn was born on December 19,
1922 and has been a life-long resident of Bed-
ford County. After graduating from Bedford
High School he enrolled and graduated from
the prestigious Dartmouth College in New
Hampshire. Jack served in the Army Air Corps
for 3 years and was 1st Lieutenant in the Pa-
cific Theatre during World War II. He was also
one of the select few who flew the B-32
bomber in the Philippines during that conflict.
After his military service Mr. Blackburn re-
turned home and became a partner of
Blackburn Russell, a grocery distributor in
Bedford.

When Jack became a member of the Bed-
ford Memorial Hospital Board of Directors in
1955 he was following a path paved by his fa-
ther, John Blackburn, Sr., who has been one
of the original Board members. Jack's service
to the hospital was anything but in his father's
shadow. He served on 12 different hospital
committees administering everything from the
Buildings and Grounds Committee to the Con-
gestive Heart Failure Committee. He was
elected Secretary of the Board in 1964 and
served in that role until he was elected Vice-
President in 1976. Ten years later Jack found
himself elevated to the position of President of
the Board of Directors. His position was re-
titled in 1994 making him Chairman of the
Board. After 22 years of leading the Board,
and 53 years of service overall, Jack made
the decision to step down and enjoy retire-
ment.

Mr. Blackburn and his late wife, Elizabeth
dedicated their lives to improving their commu-
nity. Jack has been an active member and
leader in the Bedford community for many
years and is well respected. A life of servitude
to one's community is something to be proud
of. It is also not one that is easy to step away
from, because in a man like Jack Blackburn,
the desire to help others and the community is
something that never truly disappears. I would
like to wish Mr. Blackburn all the best in his
future endeavors. It is my pleasure to honor
Mr. Blackburn today for his many years of
service to the Bedford Community, and I hold
him up as a model example of good citizen-
ship.

TRIBUTE TO BOB AHRENS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to re-
cognize the retirement of a local Ogden, Iowa
mechanic, Bob Ahrens and to express my ap-
preciation for his dedication and commitment
to his community.

For 41 years, Bob has been fixing cars for
his friends, neighbors and strangers in the
Ogden area. He is known for doing quality car
repairs without costing a fortune to his cus-
tomers. He also has performed many jobs on
cars where he did not bother to collect the
money owed to him. His long-time business